

REMARKS

Claims 32 to 65 are pending in this application, of which claims 32, 48 and 60 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 32 to 47 and 51 to 65 under 35 U.S.C. §112 for allegedly failing to particularly point out and claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner as indicated that the terms "distal end" and "encasement that includes an aperture" are not clear. Accordingly, Applicant has modified 32 and 60 to distinctly claim the invention. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §112 rejection.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicant's attorney can be reached by telephone at the number shown below.

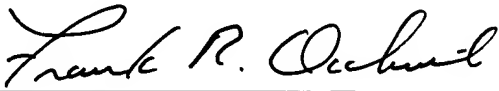
Applicant : Yuri Kazakevich  
Serial No. : 09/944,495  
Filed : August 31, 2001  
Page : 14 of 14

Attorney's Docket No.: 00167-376001 / 02-31-0382

No fee is believed to be due for this Response; however, if any fees are due, please apply such fees to deposit account 06-1050, referencing attorney docket 00167-376001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 2, 2004

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank R. Occhiuti  
Reg. No. 35,306

Fish & Richardson P.C.  
225 Franklin Street  
Boston, MA 02110-2804  
Telephone: (617) 542-5070  
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906

20908118.doc